

***Agrotis ripae* Hübner, Sand Dart (Lep.: Noctuidae) an adaptation to shifting sand.**

I have kept larvae of *Agrotis ripae* on two occasions. They were found in the sand around plants of sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*) on the north coast of Cornwall. I kept them in containers full of sand with food on top. They rested themselves buried in the sand and came up to feed. Once they had finished feeding in the autumn they remained in the sand through the winter. On both occasions when I kept them they appeared on the surface of the sand again in the spring. They did not feed but buried themselves in the sand again where they pupated.

The natural environment of *ripae* is very harsh. The larvae feed on the last flowering plants before the sea. The winter storms and gales move the sand and many of the larvae must be left at a far greater depth at the end of winter. If they were to pupate at this depth the moths may not be able to emerge successfully. By making their way to the surface in the spring prior to burying themselves again, the larvae are overcoming this difficulty. I suspect that this is the reason for the behaviour.— Dr B.P. HENWOOD, 4 The Paddocks, Abbotskerswell, Newton Abbot, Devon.

***Pammene suspectana* (Zeller) in Huntingdonshire**

At the beginning of 1990 I decided to trap some of the woods in my home county of Huntingdonshire (v.c.31) of which no previous records of the moth fauna could be found. One of these was a privately owned wood situated near the southern border of the county. The majority of trapping was by the use of a white sheet with a 125 watt mercury vapour lamp placed in the centre approximately two feet six inches above the sheet. While running one of these traps on 6th May an unknown tortricid was caught. This was later identified by Mr E.F. Hancock as a specimen of *Pammene suspectana*, the sixth record for Britain.

The first record of the species occurring in Britain was in 1975 when a specimen was caught in Cambridgeshire, in a pheromone trap used in commercial plum orchards to monitor the incidence and flight activity of the male Plum Fruit moth (*Cydia funebrana*). Subsequent records were in 1976, again in a Cambridgeshire pheromone trap; 1979 in Worcestershire in a pheromone trap; 1984 in a light trap in Wiltshire and finally in 1986 found resting on foliage in Berkshire.

I am most grateful to Mr E.F. Hancock for his assistance with the identification of this moth and for preparing the genitalia slide.— BARRY DICKERSON, County Lepidoptera Recorder, Huntingdonshire.

***Apion modestum* Germar (Col.: Apionidae) in West Cumbria**

On 12th August 1990 I tapped one specimen of *Apion modestum* Germar from a small plant of *Lotus uliginosus* Schkur (Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil) which was growing in a damp situation along the course of an old disused railway line running between Crossfield and Moor Row (NY15.10) in West Cumbria.